



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Structural Pest Inspectors must be licensed

OLYMPIA – Thurston County's booming real estate market is increasing the demand for structural pest inspections. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) wants to remind homeowners to make sure the structural pest inspectors they use are state licensed.

Most mortgage companies and banks require a pest inspection prior to approving a home loan. However, some inspectors hired for the work are unlicensed, putting them in violation of state law. Using an unlicensed inspector also places the buyer and seller at risk because they have little recourse in the event that the inspection is incomplete or faulty.

WSDA licensing requires inspectors to be competent at identifying pests that may cause damage, such as termites and carpenter ants as well as wood rot or fungus growth. The license also requires the inspector to be either insured or bonded.

For more information, contact the WSDA at 877-301-4555 or e-mail license@agr.wa.gov. A list of licensed inspectors is available at

<http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/ListStructuralPestInspectors.htm>

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